(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Effect of shortage of coal and gas on power generation

1280. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power generation has been affected due to short supply of coal and gas during the year 2005-06;

(b) if so, the quantum of power in terms of mega watt being generated with coal and gas during the year 2005-06

(c) the estimated loss of power in terms of mega watt;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure adequate supply of coal and gas to the power plants during the year 2006-07; and

(e) whether Government propose to give additional coal blocks to companies for generating power?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) During the year 2005-06, overall coal supply position to coal based power stations in the country was generally comfortable. Some of the pit-head power stations of NTPC, however, reported generation loss due to shortage of coal in the initial period of the year *i.e.*, April to August, 2005.

Supply of gas to gas based power stations in the country was inadequate and most of the power stations experienced generation loss due to shortage of gas during the year 2005-06.

(b) The quantum of power generation by the coal and gas based power stations during 2005-06 was as under:—

- Coal based power stations : 405,374 Million Units (MUs)
- Gas based power stations : 60,128 Million Units (MUs)

(c) During the year 2005-06, the estimated loss of generation which is expressed in kilo watt hours (unit) of electricity due to shortage of coal was about 1.65 Billion Unit (BU) and the same due to shortage of gas was about 23.88 BU.

(d) Following steps have been taken/are being taken by the Government to ensure that there is adequate supply of coal and gas to the

power plants in the country during 2006-07;

(i) **Coal**

1. The coal supply position to thermal power station is rigorously monitored in Central Electricity Authority and Ministry of Power on daily basis.
2. A Sub-group of the Infrastructure Constraints Review Committee headed by the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Coal, consisting of the representatives from the Ministry of Power, Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Railways and Coal India Ltd., reviews and resolves the problems in coal supply to thermal power stations having coal stock below 7 days requirement on weekly/fortnightly basis.
3. The Infrastructure Constraint Review Committee, headed by Secretary (Co-ordination) in the Cabinet Secretariat, reviews the coal production and supply to thermal power stations in the country every month.
4. New Coal blocks are being allocated to power producers/ utilities for captive mining to meet requirement of their power plants.
5. Coal is being imported to meet shortfall in domestic coal availability.

(ii) **Gas:**

Ministry of Petroleum and natural Gas has initiated following actions to improve the gas availability in the power stations.

1. Augmentation of production of natural gas from the existing gas fields/wells.
2. Increasing availability of gas from domestic sources by awarding gas blocks for Exploration & Production (E & P) activities in various basins of the country under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).
3. Encouraging import of gas in the form of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

(e) Ministry of Coal has identified additional captive coal blocks for power plants.